



# The CAPITOL HILL MONITOR

OCTOBER 1993

## STANDARD COAST GUARD FREQUENCY PLAN

U.S. Department of Transportation

United States Coast Guard



When the Coast Guard installed the Motorola MCX-1000 in its vessels almost three years ago, the MCX-1000 was one of the first VHF DES radios used by the Coast Guard on the east coast. The MCX-1000 is not an ordinary marine radio: Only 18 of the MCX-1000's 56 channels are marine frequencies. For coordination purposes the Coast Guard programmed frequencies used by other federal, military and municipal agencies into the remaining 38 channels, which are commonly known as "Lant" (for Atlantic) channels. The MCX-1000 frequency plan is standard on the Atlantic coast. The Pacific coast has a different plan.

Even though used by various fire and police agencies along the entire east coast, Lant channels 1 through 9 were probably intended for coordination purposes with specific municipal agencies in Florida (or perhaps Puerto Rico). Similarly, some of the federal and military Lant channels (between 29 and 56) appear to be only officially used near the Florida coast.

Lynn Burke and Massachusetts NESN member Bill Dunn provided us with this great list: Channel usages didn't appear on the list, so we took the liberty of providing them when possible. In our area some federal or military Lant channels may be assigned for use by other government agencies, if used at all. Remember, these frequencies are for use along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and NOT on inland waterways (except for the marine channels).

## USCG Atlantic Area Frequency Plan

### CH M Freq Name & Use

- 01 s 153.7850 LANT 1 Local Gov't(mobileonly)
- 02 r 154.9950 LANT2 Local Gov't (153.785 input)
- 03 s 154.1600 LANT 3 Fire
- 04 r 154.1300 LANT 4 Fire (154.34 input)
- 05 s 154.2800 LANT 5 Fire Mutual Aid
- 06 s 154.3700 LANT 6 Fire
- 07 s 154.6950 LANT 7 State Police
- 08 s 155.2800 LANT 8 Special Emergency
- 09 s 155.4750 LANT 9 National Law Enforcement
- 10 s 156.8000 Mar Ch 16 Distress, Safety & Calling
- 11 s 156.3750 Mar Ch 67 Commercial
- 12 s 156.4500 Ch 9 Comm, Non-Comm & General Purpose Calling
- 13 s 156.4750 Mar Ch 69 Non-Commercial
- 14 s 156.5000 Mar Ch 10 Commercial
- 15 s 156.5250 Mar Ch 70 Non-Commercial
- 16 s 156.5500 Mar Ch 11 Commercial
- 17 s 156.6000 Mar Ch 12 Port Operations
- 18 s 156.6500 Mar Ch 13 Navigational
- 19 s 156.7000 Mar Ch 14 Port Operations
- 20 s 156.7250 Mar Ch 74 Port Operations
- 21 s 156.3000 Mar Ch 6 Intership Safety
- 22 s 156.9000 Mar Ch 18A Commercial
- 23 s 157.0500 Mar Ch 21A Coast Guard Working

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24 s 157.0750 Mar Ch 81A Coast Guard Working  
25 s 157.1000 Mar Ch 22A Coast Guard Liaison  
26 s 157.1500 Mar Ch 23A Coast Guard Working  
27 s 157.1750 Mar Ch 83A Coast Guard Working  
28 s 159.4800 LANT 28 Oil Spill Cleanup  
29 r 163.1750 LANT 29 ?Commerce? (162.05 input)  
30 s 162.1250 LANT 30 ?Commerce?  
31 s 162.2500 LANT 31 Navy  
32 s 162.3250 LANT 32 Coast Guard Law Enf  
33 s 163.0500 LANT 33 Coast Guard Law Enforcement  
34 r 162.1250 LANT 34 USCG Law Enf. (163.05 input)  
35 s 163.1750 LANT 35 USCG Law Enforcement  
36 r 162.0500 LANT 36 USCG Law Enf. (163.175 input)  
37 s 163.4125 LANT 37 Army Corps of Engineers  
38 s 163.5375 LANT 38 Army Corps of Engineers  
39 r 163.4375 LANT 39 Corps of Engr (164.2 input)  
40 s 164.5500 LANT 40 Coast Guard Law Enfo/OCDETF  
41 s 164.7750 LANT 41 ?Energy?  
42 s 165.1375 LANT 42 ? USAF/Army ?  
43 s 165.2375 LANT 43 US Customs  
44 s 165.2625 LANT 44 Coast Guard Law Enfo  
45 s 165.4625 LANT 45  
46 r 164.7750 LANT 46 ?Energy? (165.975 input)  
47 s 166.2250 LANT 47 FEMA  
48 s 166.4375 LANT 48 US Customs  
49 s 166.4625 LANT 49 Treasury Common/OCDETF  
50 s 166.5875 LANT 50 US Customs  
51 r 165.2375 LANT 51 US Customs (166.9375 input)  
52 s 167.9000 LANT 52 USCG Law Enf.  
53 r 165.2625 LANT 53 USCG Law Enf. (167.9 input)  
54 r 164.5500 LANT 54 OCDETF (168.8625 input)  
55 s 171.3375 LANT 55 Coast Guard  
56 s 173.5875 LANT 56 USAF/Army

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## THE WRATH OF CHANNEL 14

BY JACK ANDERSON, FREQUENCY  
FORUM SYSOP

Do you hear Home Shopping Club audio on UHF police channels?

Do you notice a constant buzz on frequencies in the UHF band?

If the answer is yes, Channel 14 is likely the culprit!

On August 3 WTMW-TV "Channel 14," owned by the Urban Broadcasting Corporation, went into full operation from northwest Washington providing 24-hour shop-at-home programming. Soon after going on the air, WTMW increased its transmitter power to 2.88 million watts (ERP) for the visual carrier (471.24 MHz) and to 288,000 watts (ERP) for the audio carrier (475.74 MHz). WTMW's signal originates from an omni-directional

Dielectric TFU-26E/CP antenna 407 feet above the ground on the WRC-TV tower.

Since early August area scanner buffs and some two-way radio users have experienced interference which likely originates from Channel 14. Many experiencing interference still have yet to realize the problem may be Channel 14. Symptoms of Channel 14 interference include: buzzing sounds on UHF frequencies which resemble a 60-cycle hum, increased inter-modulation problems, Home Shopping signals on selected UHF frequencies and so on. Specific interference problems vary depending upon your location and receiver. The buzz heard on UHF frequencies is probably the most common interference experienced.

Wideband receivers, such as those found in scanners, can be easily affected by strong transmitters, such as WTMW, which are spectrally and physically close to the receiver's location. This can affect receivers in a number of ways, depending upon frequency and location.

The interference problem experienced by scanner listeners appears to be receiver desense caused by the Channel 14 signal. Here's why: Receiver desense occurs when a signal from a nearby transmitter overloads the signal amplification circuitry in a receiver. The effect is not unlike what one would experience if attempting to listen to a person on the other side of the room whisper while someone stands next to you, screaming in your ear.

With frequency modulation carrier energy remains fairly constant since frequency varies to transmit the signal intelligence. Desense resulting from this kind of transmitter makes signals sound weaker or noisier than they would if no desense was occurring. There would be little or no fluctuation in the level of interference.

Broadcast television stations use a form of amplitude modulation known as vestigial sideband (VSB). VSB is similar to single sideband (SSB) and double sideband (DSB, aka AM): A full upper sideband and carrier are transmitted, and the lower sideband is suppressed (but not completely).

Desense resulting from an AM (or VSB/SSB) transmitter sounds different than interference from FM transmitters, since with AM, VSB or SSB, the RF carrier level varies to transmit the signal intelligence. It's likely that the intensity of the desensitization varies according to the power level transmitted at any given instant.

With desense from television transmitters, scanner listeners will frequently hear a buzz. Here's why: Television carriers transmit signal intelligence by varying the RF output of the transmitter. Luminance information transmitted to the receiving TV controls the brightness of the electron beam as it scans across the picture. Synchronization and blanking signals help organize the luminance information so a picture can be reconstructed at the receiving television.

The beam scan starts at the top of the screen and scans from left to right, varying brightness according to the luminance information received from the transmitter. The scan is interlaced: first, odd lines (1, 3, 5, etc.) are scanned, then the beam returns to the upper-left corner and scans the even lines. This process, called interlacing, reduces the flicker you might otherwise see if the entire picture is scanned. There are 525 lines in a television picture.

Each time the beam returns to the left side of the screen, it must be turned off so it does not show up on the screen as it whips back over to the left side. This is known as horizontal blanking. The beam must also be turned off when it is moved from the bottom right of the screen to the top left to start a new frame. This is called vertical blanking.

In the luminance portion of the television signal, the transmitted RF energy is lower when the beam is scanning a bright portion of the line, and higher when scanning a dark portion of the line. In other words, the darker the picture, the stronger the RF output of the transmitter.

So, guess how they blank the beam during the horizontal and vertical blanking intervals? During these intervals the transmitted energy is at its peak - in fact, much stronger than a normal "black" level that's transmitted when luminance information is being sent.

Vertical blanking occurs just before a new frame is sent, when the beam must return to the upper left-hand corner of the screen. This happens 60 times a second - hence, the 60 Hz buzz we hear now when listening to UHF signals on a scanner. The scanner is actually being desensed 60 times a second, during the vertical blanking interval.

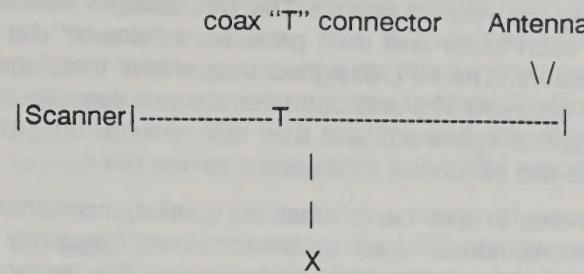
You may be wondering why you don't get desense during the horizontal blanking interval. Well you do, you just can't hear it. Horizontal blanking happens 15,750 times a second.

Out-of-band products would most likely appear as white noise in the RF spectrum. It's unlikely that there's enough out-of-band energy to affect scanner listeners, and it wouldn't produce the buzzing you hear.

Other types of interference include swishing sounds and TV audio on UHF land mobile frequencies. Again, these are probably the result of scanner-receiver overload. The presence of TV audio and strong "dead" carriers with a faint buzz probably indicate your scanner receiver is picking up images of the UHF television station's video or audio carrier. These can result when the strong television signals mix with the internal oscillators of your scanner.

The only way to get rid of this interference is to block it before it enters your scanner. A notch filter tuned to Channel 14's frequency connected between your

scanner and antenna might help. You may be able to build your own filter using the following method.



Length of coax tuned to 1/4 wavelength of undesired frequency and shorted at the end.

For more information regarding WTMW contact the station's engineers at 202-293-2020 or 703-528-0051. Curtis Garris, WTMW's chief engineer, was contacted for comment in regard to this article. When asked about interference complaints, he said, "We've had very, very few complaints." He said he'd get back with us, but hasn't yet.

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#### AREA SPORTS ARENAS

BY ALAN HENNEY



By the time you read this we'll be in the midst of football season. Listening to game-related activity on the scanner can often be more entertaining than watching the game itself.

Even if you don't attend the game, you'll still receive game-related activity on many of these frequencies. If you go to any of the stadiums, please take notes (and of course your scanner) and share your findings with the rest of us. Charlie Bowman, Greg Guise, Joe McLaughlin, Mike Peyton and Dave Statter contributed to this article.

#### RFK Stadium

153.9800 s Armory Board  
154.2350 s DCFD Stadium Command  
161.3850 r WMATA Transit Police  
161.7000 s WMAL Traffic (Brooke Stevens)  
453.5250 ? DC Special Police (also try 458.525)  
455.9125 r Metro Traffic Control  
460.2750 r MPD SOD stadium detail  
463.8000 r DC Lottery Concessions  
464.3750 r F1: RFK Operations & Maintenance  
464.6750 s F2: RFK Operations & Maintenance  
852.6625 s EAB/EMS Supervisors and Fire Prevention

These frequencies are just to help get you started! While at the stadium, keep the following frequency bands in mind.

The NFL coordinates the low-power wireless microphone frequencies used by the NFL referees, officials and teams (including the helmet radios). The NFL assigns frequencies to each team and then provides a "stay-off" list to broadcasters. The NFL-assigned frequencies traditionally operate between 175 and 200 MHz. Several seasons ago the Redskins operated, and may still operate, on 181.0. Referees this season at RFK appear to use 184.4.

Frequencies in this band must be carefully coordinated since microphones used by broadcasters frequently lie between 169 and 220 MHz. Unfortunately few scanners cover this band since this is where TV channels 7 to 13 transmit. Other wireless microphone frequencies commonly used by broadcasters include the 25.87 to 26.47 and 947 to 952 MHz bands.

Frequencies used by broadcasters for traditional two-way communication normally come from the 161.6 to 161.8, 450 to 451 and 455 to 456 MHz bands. Frequencies vary from game to game. From experience, however, we're able to spot some consistency and trends with regard to the frequencies chosen by the network sports crews. The following frequencies were used in the past at RFK, but are not guaranteed for future games!

Make certain to try 161.64 whenever a blimp is present (both ABC and CBS use 161.64 for blimp coordination).

ABC Sports: 161.64, 450.4125, 450.675, 450.725, 450.8, 450.9625, 455.325, 455.4875, 455.825 and 455.9625.

CBS Sports: 153.29, 161.64, 450.35, 450.4125, 450.5125, 450.8, 455.4125, 455.825 and 464.5.

NBC Sports: 450.55 and 450.825.

Westwood One (Mutual Radio): 450.3125, 450.925, 455.4125, 455.75 and 455.925.

ESPN: When ESPN first started, producers of cable programming were not eligible to use the broadcast auxiliary frequencies which broadcasters got to use under Part 74 (the 161, 450 and 455 MHz bands). The FCC changed the rule, and now producers of cable programming use the frequencies. Since ESPN got its start using non-media allocations, however, ESPN may still remain there today. ESPN used these frequencies in the past: 152.96, 462.55, 462.575, 462.625, 462.65, 464.925 467.25, 467.325, 467.875 and 487.875. Are they still used?

#### US Air Arena (Ex-Capital Centre)

151.8950 s Operations and Maintenance

158.8650 s MNCP&PC Police (Arena Detail)

461.6750 s Contracted Security (Burns Security)

464.7750 s Contracted Security (American Control)

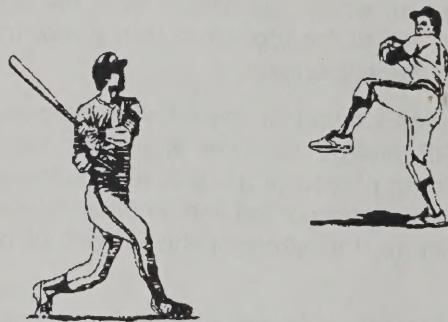
469.5000 s Contracted Security (American Control)

861 to 865 on .0875, .3375, .5875 and .8375 Silver Spring Ambulance

In July, the Capital Centre was renamed the US Air Arena. Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

police secure the exterior of the Arena and operate on 158.865 during the details. The MNCP&PC-Arena command post identifies as "890" and mobiles assigned to the detail use designations in the 890s.

Various contracted security firms provided security during past events inside the Arena (whose frequencies are noted). Arena security now reportedly operates with maintenance personnel on 151.895 (but make certain to try the other frequencies as well). Silver Spring Ambulance, the official ambulance service of the Arena, uses the 20-channel leased trunked system.



Oriole Park at Camden Yard

453.3000 r Baltimore City Police (traffic posts)

453.4750 r Transportation Authority (traffic posts)

453.6500 r Baltimore City Police (stadium patrol)

461.6375 s Maryland Stadium Authority

463.5625 s Maryland Stadium Authority

464.6625 s Maryland Stadium Authority

466.6375 s Maryland Stadium Authority

The Baltimore Orioles team is licensed on 464.6375 and 469.6375.

#### University Sports Facilities

While not as publicized as professional sports, college sports events can be just as entertaining to monitor. Unfortunately we do not have room in this issue to cover all area colleges, but several noteworthy sports-related frequencies come to mind.

Listen for football and other sports activities at the University of Maryland's College Park campus on 151.805 (Reckord Armory), 154.6 (Byrd Stadium), 453.575 (police), 464.325 (parking) and 464.825 (Health & Human Performance).

Football is long gone at the George Washington University, but basketball continues to thrive. Try 151.685 (Smith Center), 463.675 (campus security) and 464.475 (Smith Center). While at Georgetown University try 463.725 (campus security).

The Centre Group, which operates the Capital Centre, also operates George Mason University's Patriot Center. The center reportedly uses UHF radios, possibly on

468.125. This, however, is the mobile side of Med channel 6 and is likely a mistake. GMU police operate on 855.4875 and 855.7125. Refer to the February, 1993 CHM newsletter for more area college and university frequencies.

While at any sports event where radio is used, try the common itinerant and low-power frequencies: 151.625, 154.57, 154.6, 464.5 and 464.55. Also try the 49 MHz band for inexpensive wireless setups.

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### **METRO TRAFFIC AND SHADOW FACE-OFF IN DC AREA**

Metro Traffic Control has faced little competition during its existence in the Washington market -- until now! In early September WTOP discontinued its affiliation with Metro Traffic Control to become Shadow's first customer in the Washington market. Shadow Traffic already provides traffic reporting services in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Diego.

The Shadow traffic team, which so far includes only one leased airplane, currently operates on WTOP traffic frequencies (450.35 and 455.65) since it shares the same production facilities with WTOP. We hope to have additional details regarding Shadow in the next newsletter.

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### **NEWSSCAN**

BY BRENT BAKER

#### **WASHINGTON'S TRAFFIC REPORTERS GAIN INFLUENCE.** A July

26 *Washington Post* article profiled key Washington area traffic reporters and commended them for providing constructive advice to local governments.

Metro Traffic Control (MTC), the *Post* notes, employs all area traffic reporters except for WLTT's Walt Starling (this article was written prior to Shadow Traffic's arrival in the Washington market). "While five Metro Traffic reporters fly, the remaining 10 reporters and producers work out of a studio in a Bethesda office building." The MTC studio receives reports from its reporters on 455.9125 as well as from other sources. "Using information from the planes, law enforcement agencies, state transportation departments and cellular phone callers, the [MTC] reporters



give about 3,000 reports a week, usually lasting a minute each."

Metro Traffic currently contracts with 35 radio stations and five television stations. This is expected to change as Shadow Traffic moves into the Washington market. "The stations barter commercial time to Metro Traffic," says the *Post*, "which in turn sells the time and asks their reporters to read the commercials along with traffic reports."

"Traffic-reporting jobs attract a range of people," notes the *Post*. Brooke Stevens, the MTC reporter assigned to WMAL, is "a German immigrant who has given a Washington traffic report in her native language and a professional singer who on Fridays does requests such as 'I've Got a Crush on You' on the air." Stevens, who uses 161.7 for remotes, "succeeded veteran traffic reporter Andy Parks in January, becoming the first woman in Washington to do reports from a plane full time. Stevens isn't her real name; she won't disclose it and says it's too hard to say on the radio anyway."

Stevens, 31, had a rough baptism the article states. "With no experience giving traffic reports or flying in a small plane, she was hired by Metro Traffic and WMAL executives who said they were impressed with her energy when they heard her accept a radio advertising award at a dinner last year. At first, Stevens had trouble with airsickness. She also could not identify some area roads, which led to sniping by some of her male colleagues."

"I was a hurtin' puppy at first," Stevens told the *Post*. "Although Stevens has improved," the *Post* says, "her experience raised questions about how traffic reporters are trained." Metro Traffic, which employs all the area's traffic reporters except Starling, told the *Post*, it "asks reporters to learn area roads and tests them."

Stacey Binn, 41, a MTC reporter whose reports are heard on WUSA-TV9 and on some radio stations told the *Post* "One of the frustrations we're always up against is the time limit we're given for our reports and the roads we have to cover."

The *Post* referred to Walt Starling, who uses 450.7 for remotes, as "the dean of airborne traffic reporters in Washington, with almost 20 years' experience..."

Jim Russ, 31, MTC's airborne reporter for WMZQ-AM and FM, described himself to the *Post* as a "scanner junkie" and said "he began his career in his native Baltimore where his idea of a good day was a car fire in the Harbor Tunnel." Russ sends his remotes to WMZQ on 450.2625.

"Tom Fanning, 37, is a former cab driver and grocery checker" and provides remotes to WPGC or 455.8.

The *Post* describes Sonya Ford as a 25-year-old who reports for WKYS-FM, among other stations. Ford is "a Brownie troop leader, volunteer in a Prince George's County orphanage and master's degree candidate in counseling at Johns Hopkins University." Ford supplies traffic reports to WKYS from the MTC studio.

WTOP-AM's Bob Marbourg, 49, whose devotion to traffic reporting the Post describes as "legendary," jokingly told the Post he takes map books with him to the bathroom. The WTOP traffic team, which operates on 455.65 and 450.35, recently joined forces with Shadow Traffic.

Annual pay for traffic reporters, the Post notes, "ranges from about \$17,000 to \$70,000, with most receiving salaries on the low end of that range." Refer to the April, 1992 CHM newsletter for more details regarding frequencies used by area traffic reporters.

**30 NEW CORDLESS PHONE FREQUENCIES PROPOSED.** The FCC, states an article in the Sept. 7 Washington Post, has proposed to provide 30 additional frequencies to relieve channel congestion and reduce interference to cordless telephones operating in the 46 MHz and 49 MHz frequency bands.

"They [cordless phones] essentially are two-way radio systems," the Post acknowledges, "that connect to the public telephone network and allow users to walk around carrying on conversations on phones that have no cord."

The FCC says in the docket that "approximately 18 million cordless phones were sold in 1992, and about 60 million are currently in use." The popularity of cordless phones has led to growing congestion on the 10 channels, particularly in dense urban and suburban areas. Wireless "baby monitors," the docket notes, have made five channels virtually unusable for cordless telephones in some areas.

The petition for rule-making, filed by the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), requests the Commission make available an additional 15 channel pairs using 30 frequencies near 44 and 49 MHz for cordless telephones.

Specific frequencies were not printed in the proposal, but the FCC notes that "the proposed frequencies are currently allocated to the Private Land Mobile Radio Service for use by the Land Transportation, Petroleum, and Forest Products Radio Services. TIA states that the risk of interference to the PLMRS is negligible due to light usage of the proposed frequencies, the low power of cordless telephones, and a proposed requirement that the cordless telephone be designed to automatically monitor select channels so as to avoid those that are in use."

**DC POLICE RADIO FOUND IN RAID.** When the DC police raided an apartment in Northeast Washington's Fort Totten area, in addition to finding drugs and guns they found a DC police portable radio. An Aug. 6 Washington Post article reported, "the radio was last registered to the Criminal Investigations Division, which includes the department's homicide, robbery and sex squads. It was assigned for use by a task force of DC police and the FBI and had been reported stolen. The Motorola MX340 radio is capable of receiving and transmitting signals on nearly

all frequencies used by the DC police department, including the one used to coordinate yesterday's raid."

Among the weapons found by the officers, a "12-gauge 'Street-sweeper,' a semi-automatic shotgun capable of firing a dozen rounds as quickly as the trigger can be pulled." It seems scanners are hardly the greatest threat to compromising police communications.

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## NEWSFLASHES



### MPD Plans Realignment

If the top-brass in the Metropolitan Police Department have their way, the department's structure will change significantly. Under the proposal eight reorganized elements will report directly to the police chief. The eight elements are: Patrol Operations, Support Operations, Internal Affairs Division, Administrative Services, General Counsel, Technical Services, Management Services and Public Information & Community Affairs Office. For a copy of the entire organization chart, send Alan an SASE.

### VSP Enables Repeater on Regular Basis

Both Brent Baker and Ken Fowler report that VSP Division 7 now keeps its 159.0 frequency, channel 14, in the repeater mode most of the time. Ken says the incident earlier this year, where a VSP trooper was shot-to-death, might have led to the new policy. Since the repeater was disabled when the trooper made his traffic stop, fellow troopers were not aware of his status and location. 154.935 is the input to 159.0 (both use a CTCSS of 127.3).

### Baltimore Railroad Crews

Joe McLaughlin says 161.04 is an ideal frequency for railroad buffs since vans on this frequency transport relief crews from the Baltimore terminal office to various yards in and around Baltimore. Joe also notes that 414.975, the US Postal Inspectors frequency, has been more active with general information and surveillance.

### Baltimore City Fire Plans 800 MHz System

Fire Inspector Chuck Hutchinson says the Baltimore City Fire Department submitted a bid for an 800 MHz radio system. Chuck says unconfirmed reports indicate the FCC has already allocated the new frequencies. No

additional details are available, but Chuck says "Stay tuned for further developments!"

**YOU ARE INVITED TO TOUR ARLINGTON COUNTY'S NEW COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

**Fire Buffs Consider New Frequencies**

Rumors this month indicate that area fire buffs may soon operate on other repeater frequencies, in addition to the current 462.15 repeater. Nothing has been finalized as of yet, but possible repeater frequencies under consideration include 452.975 and 462.0. Fire buffs are allegedly negotiating with WTTG-TV5, which may provide tower space for a new repeater. Stay tuned!

**Another Take-Out Taxi?**

The latest rage in food delivery: After ordering take-outs from local restaurants, customers too lazy to pickup the orders call a take-out taxi which pickups the food and delivers it to the hungry customer! John Korman of Potomac says on 463.975 (173.8 Hz) he monitors what sounds like another take-out taxi. A Montgomery County towing company reportedly uses 463.975 as well.

John notes that a take-out taxi already operates on 463.325 (151.4 Hz) in the Washington area. Both services follow similar procedures, but appear to cover different geographical areas; 463.325 in Montgomery County and NW Washington and 463.975 in Prince George's County. Can anyone provide more details? Are both frequencies used by the same service?

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**NEXT CHM MEETING DATE**

Set for Sat., Oct. 16 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The next CHM meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the District's Takoma library, 416 Cedar Street, NW. We plan to have a couple guest speakers on hand. The Takoma Library is in a safe and quiet NW Washington residential neighborhood, near the Takoma Metro station. Library staff assure us plenty of parking is available on the street during weekends. Please note, this is NOT the City of Takoma Park library! Please contact Alan for additional details.

**Tour set for Sat., Oct. 23 at 1 p.m.**

On Sept. 1, 1993, nine months later than planned, the Arlington County Emergency Communications Center began operations from the fifth floor of its new facility at 1400 North Uhle Street. The new center incorporates the latest state-of-the-art equipment including a new computer aided dispatch system, a 15-channel 800 MHz trunked radio system and a new 9-1-1 telephone system. The Arlington County ECC has the first fully-functional computer aided dispatch (CAD) system in the country which operates in a window environment.

Steve Souder, the ECC administrator, plans to take us for a tour of the new ECC on Saturday, October 23 at 1 p.m. Guests and cameras are welcomed. The ECC is on the fifth floor of the seven-story county office building at 1400 North Uhle Street. When you arrive at the building, contact the ECC on the intercom at the front door and then take the elevator to the fifth floor. The tour is expected to take a little more than an hour.

To accommodate scanner listeners who monitor Arlington County police and fire dispatch channels, Steve says, the county will continue to simulcast the primary police (453.825) and fire (154.13) channels with the respective dispatch talkgroups from the 800 MHz trunked system.

If you are interested in attending the ECC tour, please call Alan (301-270-2531) several days prior to the tour date. We extend our appreciation to Steve Souder for his hospitality and thoughtfulness.

**OTHER NOTEWORTHY DATES**

Professional Law Enforcement Services & Equipment will sponsor the annual "Cruiser Competition" on Sunday, Oct. 17 at its store at 4551 Rhode Island Ave in Brentwood, Md. Nearly all area jurisdictions had at least one cruiser on display at last year's competition. The IRS, DEA and US Marshals exhibited several sporty undercover vehicles as well. The event starts at 9 a.m. and runs throughout the afternoon. Call 301-779-6919 for details.

The Statue of Freedom replacement has again been tentatively rescheduled for Sat., Oct. 23 at 9 a.m. Keep the frequencies handy which appeared in the August newsletter.

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**FOR SALE**

Bearcat 40-channel 800XLT for \$175. Contact Ken Fowler (703-385-2165).

Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for both style and content. When submitting material please make certain we have your phone number should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a SASE.

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**Newsletter Staff:**

Alan Henney, General Editor and Acting Treasurer  
Mike Peyton and Dave Clark, Distribution  
Brent Baker, NewsScan Editor  
Ken Fowler, Amateur Radio Net Coordinator  
Bill Hardman, Layout, etc.

The Capitol Hill Monitor is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues (which includes 12 issues) are \$8. Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney.

**Meeting Coordinators:**

Mike Peyton, Maryland Coordinator (703-902-6241)  
Ken Fowler, Virginia Coordinator (703-385-2165)

**Capitol Hill Monitor's Scanner/Shortwave Net:**

Listen for the CHM net, hosted by Ken Fowler, at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month on 146.91 MHz.

**Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:**

We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the Capitol Hill Monitor!

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## Tour Arlington County's New Communications Center!

October 23

Next CHM Meeting is October 16

**Details Inside**